



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

DEAN OF STUDENTS

227 Whitmore Administration Building  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003-9256

August 9, 2013

Dear Off-Campus Student:

I'm sure you're getting excited for the upcoming semester. Off Campus Student Services staff are ready for you, with lots of materials, services, and opportunities to help your off-campus living experience be great from day one. We are sending you these tips and timesavers to help you get ready for the new academic year.

**The Off Campus Student Center is YOUR place on campus!**

The Center is located in 314 Student Union, and staffed by students who live off-campus and understand your needs. Work space, comfortable seating, a fridge, microwave, printing station, resources, Monday Morning Coffee Hours, and regular programming are hosted at the Center.

**Web resources for all your needs!** Bookmark these for important resources, updates, events, and ways to get involved. Our party tips, emergency planning, fire safety, insurance plans, and online resources are there! [www.umass.edu/offcampus](http://www.umass.edu/offcampus) & [www.umocss.org](http://www.umocss.org).

**The Online Course you need!**

Take a free, 20 minute course, *Moving Off Campus OWL*. Learn almost everything you need; Landlord-Tenant rights and responsibilities, Amherst and Hadley Town Bylaws that impact off campus students, saving money, getting along with roommates and University and community standards for neighborly behavior.

**UMatter@UMASS** is a campus wide movement that sends a clear message to all. We care deeply about safety, health, wellbeing and success, and affirm our roles and responsibilities in sustaining the thriving community that is UMass Amherst. Stay tuned for more on how you can show you make a positive impact on and off campus.

The Dean of Students staff is committed to your personal and academic success.

My best wishes for a successful year.

Sincerely,

Sally Linowski, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean of Students

cc: UMass Amherst Community



**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST**

DEAN OF STUDENTS

227 Whitmore Administration Building  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003-9256

August 30, 2013

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the 2013-14 academic year and your return to Amherst, one of the best college towns in America. The fall semester is an exciting time to reconnect with friends and enjoy the great New England fall.

As you begin your planning you should know your property has been cited as a nuisance house in the past year. This usually means Amherst Police responded to your current address because of public drunkenness, public urination, large crowds or loud noise.

We understand you may be a new resident and not know this history. A good strategy is to try some of the following:

- Introduce yourself to your neighbors and talk about their expectations for parking and events at your place
- Be on the lookout for roving groups of party seekers
- Plan to limit the impact of noise and guests on your neighbors
- Follow your community's expectations for street parking
- Follow Amherst's noise, alcohol, open container and nuisance house bylaws

Be aware that roving groups of individuals search for parties and may gather quickly at your place without invitation, causing problems for you and your neighbors. This is especially true if your property has a history of attracting large crowds.

As a tenant you will be held responsible for the actions of people in your yard or house even if they are uninvited. The Code of Student Conduct applies to UMass students whether they live on or off campus. Understanding and complying with University and town bylaws including local alcohol policies is especially important. Failure to do so could result in arrest, steep fines, public arrest records and disciplinary outcomes up to suspension or expulsion from the University. Please take a minute to review the relevant laws at <http://www.umass.edu/studentlife/ocsc/living/bylaws-and-conduct>.

Amherst is our home. Let's work together to create safe, healthy, respectful neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Allison Berger, Associate Dean of Students

Sally Linowski, Assistant Dean of Students, Community Education

August 26, 2013

Dear:

I am writing to you because you went through our Code of Conduct process last year, including possibly attending BASICS. Our Code describes principles for living and acting responsibly in a community setting. I hope that you have reflected on the impact of your past behavior and that you are ready to engage positively in the UMass community on and off campus.

This letter is to inform you that the University Police and Amherst Police are expanding their efforts to monitor events and alcohol consumption this Fall. The stepped up enforcement will be primarily focused on large parties, late night noise, and state law and town alcohol bylaws. Because of your disciplinary history, it is important for you know this information.

Be aware that large gatherings that violate Town By-laws will be dispersed and individuals will be accountable for their actions. Stepped up enforcement for open containers, transporting alcohol, underage possession and noise will be prioritized this year. Violators will be fined \$300 per citation, or more for multiple infractions, and may be arrested.

Further violations of the Code of Student Conduct may lead to increased disciplinary action for you potentially jeopardizing your standing at the University. Failing to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and town bylaws also has some unintended consequences including public arrest records, loss of scholarships, inability to participate in study abroad opportunities or to lease an off campus apartment.

Good luck with the year ahead and don't hesitate to call or email us if you have any questions. We'll look forward to hearing about your successes and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Allison Berger

Associate Dean of Students